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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/893,598	06/29/2001	Yoshinori Uchiyama	01USFP644-M.K.	6524
7590	12/03/2003		EXAMINER	
McGinn & Gibb, PLLC Suite 200 8321 Old Courthouse Road Cienna, VA 22182-3817			BELL, PAUL A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2675	4

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/893,598	UCHIYAMA, YOSHINORI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	PAUL A BELL	2675

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 June 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With regard to claim 1 the variables "m" and "th" are not defined and therefore it makes the claim indefinite and unclear as to what they can be.

With regard to claim 1, if there are "n" circuit sections with each having an input terminal how can "k < n" ever be true when k is the number of input terminals and each circuit section has one?

And further with regard to claim 1 there exist an unconventional use of enclosed parentheses, they are normally reserved for references to figures to merely illustrate a limitation put are not used to limit the interpretation of a claim, so therefore it is not clear what "n" and "k" can be when I have to ignore whats inside the parentheses. It is a suggestion that applicant remove the enclosed parentheses and use language like "wherein n is an--" to make clear.

With regard to claim 1 applicant may consider using figure 4 to support changes made to claim 1 and if having done so, also make sure abstract and specification match so there are no new problems.

With regard to claim 10 the phrase "provided for different the semiconductor chips, respectively" is not clear what it can be.

With regard to claim 11 the phrase "and outputs a second signal" in line 12 is not clear where the second signal came from?

Claim 11 recites the limitation "said latch circuit" in line 12. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 2 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takuwa (5,793,363).

With regard to claim 1 (as best understood in view of 112 2P) Takuwa teaches a semiconductor circuit system comprising: a first signal line(figure 1, items Pst or Sck or DB) and n circuit sections (n is an integer = > 2) (figure 1, items 1-1a, and 1-2a), each of which has an input terminal(figure 1, items ST or TIM or CK or D) and an output terminal(figure 1, items OUT1 and OUT2), and wherein said input terminals of predetermined k ones (k is an integer satisfying $2 \leq k \leq n$) of said n circuit sections are connected to said first signal line (Pst also goes to TIM on 1-2a), and said output terminal of a m-th one ($1 \leq m \leq n-k$) of said n circuit sections is connected to said input terminal of a (m+k)-th one of said n circuit sections (OUT1 in 1-1a goes to ST of 1-2a).

With regard to claim 2 Takuwa teaches the semiconductor circuit system according to claim 1, wherein each of said n circuit sections starts an operation in response to a start signal on said first signal line and stops the operation a predetermined time after the start of the operation (figure 3).

With regard to claim 10 Takuwa teaches the semiconductor circuit system according to claim 1, wherein said n circuit sections are provided for different the semiconductor chips, respectively (figure 1, item 1-1a, 1-2a, and 1-3a).

Conclusion

1. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Bell whose telephone number is (703) 306-3019.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377 can help with any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or Faxed to: (703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Or Hand-delivered to: Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor
(Receptionist).

Paul Bell
Paul Bell
Art unit 2675
December 1, 2003

Steven Saras
STEVEN SARAS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600